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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH, 1853. (Stated Meeting.)

THOMAS ROMNEY ROBINSON, D. D., PRESIDENT,
in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following Report :—

The circumstances of the tenure under which the House in Grafton-street was held by the Academy were fully detailed in last year's Report. It is unnecessary, therefore, to allude to the subject now, except to say, that the Academy, by a vote passed at the General Meeting, held Monday, 12th April, 1852, having empowered the Council to dispose of their interest in the lease, several applications were received ; but some legal difficulties having been raised, in consequence of a life named in the original lease which was not clearly proved to have dropped, the Council was obliged to wait until the Decree of the Master in Chancery was made known.

On the 3rd of May last, the Secretary of Council was directed to write to the Law Agent of the Academy, urging him to expedite the necessary legal proceedings as much as possible, as the Academy was liable to the rent of the House in Grafton-street as long as it remained in their hands. To this letter the following answer was received :

“ 26, *Molesworth-street*,

“ 8th May, 1852.

“ SIR,—We beg to acknowledge your favour of 6th instant, and regret to say, in reply, that there is no course at present open to the Royal Irish Academy, or those acting on their behalf, by which the arrangements respecting the House, 114, Grafton-street, can be expedited ; but as it would naturally be satisfactory to the Council to be informed of the exact state of the matter, we may perhaps as well mention it upon this opportunity.

“ The Academy holds the House under Mr. Truell, who again holds under Mr. John Wisdom, the latter being himself a tenant to the Corporation of the City of Dublin.

“ The lives in being are those of Mr. and Mrs. Wisdom, both far advanced in years ; but Mr. Wisdom—being entitled to renewal for one additional life, should any of the *cestui que vies* die before Easter, 1851, and believing that that contingency had arisen, Mr. Joseph Wilson, one of the lives, not having been heard of for many years—applied for a renewal for the life of a young gentleman now about ten or eleven years old, son of Mr. Brunel, the celebrated engineer. This, however, the Corporation refused to comply with, and Mr. Wisdom was forced to institute proceedings in Chancery, the result of which was, that by a Decree of 18th December, 1851, Mr. Wisdom was declared entitled to a renewal ; but with a proviso, that in case Joseph Wilson should be proved to have been living at Easter, 1851, such renewal should be declared null and void. Since then, we are informed, Mr. Wisdom’s Solicitors have made every exertion to have the renewal perfected, but with every possible delay and obstacle opposed to them, so that, at length, they have been forced to proceed upon the reference granted to the Master in the matter, to have a draft renewal settled by him, and ground compulsory proceedings against the Corporation ; and which reference is, we understand, pending now before Master Litton, whose adjudication may be expected before long. Under these circumstances, the Council will perceive, that the Academy cannot stir until Mr. Truell shall have obtained his renewal from Mr. Wisdom, and which the latter will not be competent to execute until he shall have enforced his from the Corporation of Dublin ; and that in the meantime all that we can do is, to watch the course of proceedings of the different parties.

“ We have the honour to be, Sir,

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ (Signed) W. B. WALLACE AND SONS.

“ To Rev. Dr. Graves,

“ Secretary of Council, R. I. A.”

On the 14th of August, the Decree of the Master in Chancery having been made, directing a renewal of the head lease, a Special Meeting of Council was held, at which it was resolved, that the interest of the Academy in the lease of the House, 114, Grafton-street,

should be disposed of by public auction on the 23rd of August, instant, and that the Treasurer be empowered to carry this Resolution into effect.

The following is the Report made to the Council by the Treasurer, in pursuance of this Resolution :—

“ 4th October, 1852.

“ The Treasurer reports, that in obedience to the directions of Council, he caused the House, 114, Grafton-street, to be set up by public auction : terms of sale being, one-quarter of the purchase-money to be paid on the announcement of the purchaser, the remainder on possession being given. The House sold for £620, the gas-fittings for £10. The fourth of the purchase-money was at once paid. Shortly after, an application was made to the Treasurer, requesting that the purchaser may be at once put into possession, in order that he may commence repairs ; to this he consented, on the condition that a Letter of Guarantee should be given to him ; that the conditions as to insurance, &c., mentioned at the time of sale, should be given to him ; and also on the understanding, that the balance of purchase-money should be immediately paid. However, Mr. Clibborn took upon himself to give possession without intimating to the Treasurer his intention of so doing ; the Letter was subsequently furnished, and the legal adviser of the Academy has intimated, that no difficulty can arise in regard to the payment of the money in question.”

The following is a copy of the Letter of guarantee, alluded to in this Report, which was given by Mr. John Stevenson, Secretary to the Alliance and Consumers' Gas Company :—

“ *Consumers' Gas Company,*

“ *Dublin, 26th Aug., 1852.*

“ SIR,—The Royal Irish Academy having this day permitted the Alliance and Dublin Consumers' Gas Company to go into possession of the House and Premises, 114, Grafton-street, for the purpose of saving time in fitting them up,—I hereby, on the part of said Company, undertake that such possession shall be without prejudice to their completing their purchase thereof, according to the

Conditions of Sale ; and that same shall be completed as soon as possible after the return of the Company's Solicitor, who is at present in England.

" I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

" (Signed) JOHN STEVENSON,

" *To Robert Ball, LL. D.,*

" *Secretary.*

" *Treasurer, R. I. A.*"

The additions to the present House, to be erected by the Board of Works, were begun in August last, and although the weather during a great part of the winter has been very unfavourable for building, they are now far advanced. The Library has been roofed in ; and the roof of the Museum, which is to be chiefly of glass, is now nearly ready for the glazier. Still, it is impossible that these buildings can be finished and dry enough for occupation, until the end of the summer ; and the Academy must therefore submit for several months to the inconvenience we have suffered since our removal to the present House, of having our Museum and Library in disorder.

These circumstances induced the Council to listen the more readily to the liberal proposal made by the Committee of the Great Industrial Exhibition, to be held this year in Dublin, to receive our Museum as a whole, and appropriate to it a separate apartment in the building now in progress for the reception of the Exhibition. After some negotiations with the Committee, for the purpose of obtaining such security for the safety of the Museum as the Committee had it in their power to give, the Council agreed to recommend this important measure to the Academy ; and it was resolved, on the 14th ult., that the Museum of the Academy be exhibited in the Great Dublin Exhibition of 1853, on the conditions agreed to between the Council and the Committee of the Exhibition : and that the Council be empowered to take such further steps, from time to time, for the security of the Museum, as to them may seem necessary.

The conditions finally agreed upon between the Council and the Committee of the Great Exhibition, are in substance these :— That the Committee shall give to the Academy an undertaking in writing, that all such precautions for the safety of the Mu-

seum shall be taken as the Council shall deem necessary; that full access to the Museum at all times shall be given to such parties as shall be authorized by the Council to watch over its arrangement and safe keeping; and that the expenses of all such necessary precautions, as well as of the insurance of the Museum against fire, shall be borne by the Committee of the Exhibition. To carry out these arrangements, the Council have appointed a Committee, consisting of the Treasurer and Secretaries, with Dr. Petrie and Dr. Aquilla Smith, who are empowered to direct the necessary measures for the exhibition, arrangement, and safe keeping of the Academy's Museum, in the Building of the Great Exhibition. They have also authorized the Assistant Secretary to co-operate with this Committee in carrying their orders into effect, and to take such steps as may be necessary for the removal of the Museum into the Exhibition Building.

By these concessions on the part of the Academy, it is hoped that our Museum will form a striking and attractive feature in the approaching Exhibition, and that the disadvantage under which we would otherwise have laboured, from the unfinished state of our present House, will be more than counterbalanced. The Committee of the Exhibition have caused casts of several ancient ecclesiastical crosses, and other objects of architectural interest, to be taken, with a view to their exhibition. All these they have kindly signified their intention of ultimately depositing in the Museum of the Academy. They have also procured the loan, for exhibition, of some valuable Irish antiquities, now in the hands of private individuals. These, with our Museum, will constitute the largest and most important collection of national antiquities that has ever, perhaps, been presented to the study and examination of antiquaries in this country. The Council would, therefore, anticipate a very important movement in favour of antiquarian science from the approaching Exhibition; which will afford an opportunity of examining in juxtaposition a collection of antiquities such as has never before been brought together: and it cannot be doubted, that if this peculiar feature of the Dublin Exhibition is made generally known, it will attract to this city, during the approaching summer, not only the antiquaries of London and

Edinburgh, but also those of the Continent of Europe, to whom our Irish antiquities are so deeply interesting.

In the Report of last year, allusion was made to the subject of a Catalogue of our Museum; and it has since been ascertained from Dr. Petrie, to whom the task had been committed, that he was unable to complete the Catalogue within the limits fixed by the Resolution of Council of 7th January, 1850: the Council, therefore, appointed a Museum Committee, to carry out the plan already agreed upon by the Academy for the preparation and publication of the Catalogue.

This Committee presented to the Council, on the 14th of April last, the following Report:—

“ The Resolution of the Council, directing a Catalogue of the Museum to be prepared, distinctly specifies three objects to be kept in view:—

- “ 1. An accurate list of everything in the Museum.
- “ 2. Such a list as to be a guarantee for the safety of the articles.
- “ 3. A descriptive Catalogue for the use of visitors.

“ It is the opinion of the Committee, that the first of these objects would be attained by continuing the Register commenced some years ago, in connexion with the Pictorial Catalogue, which was, however, discontinued about two years since.

“ They would, therefore, recommend, that this list be continued; and that the Pictorial Catalogue be also completed up to the present time, by which the second of the foregoing objects would be in a great measure attained, especially if weights and measurements were added to each object portrayed.

“ For this purpose it will be necessary that a sum, not exceeding £50, be placed at the disposal of the Committee.

“ Whilst the Register and Pictorial Catalogue are in course of completion, as above recommended, the Committee will take the necessary steps for a permanent classification of the Museum, with a view to the preparation of the Descriptive Catalogue.”

In accordance with this Report, it was recommended by the Council, and voted by the Academy, that £50 should be placed at the disposal of the Museum Committee, for the purpose of conti-

ning the Register of the Museum, and of completing the Pictorial Catalogue.

This sum, however, has not been as yet expended. The Committee have ordered, that the Register of the Museum, commenced some years ago, shall be completed, as a necessary preliminary step to the formation of a Catalogue. In accordance with this order, Dr. Aquilla Smith has kindly assisted in weighing all the gold articles, entering their dimensions and weights in the Register; and Mr. Clibborn is now engaged in filling up the column of the Register headed "*How procured*," which will tell whether the article has been obtained by donation or by purchase. He is adding also a reference to the sheet of the Pictorial Catalogue (so far as it has been hitherto completed), in which each article is portrayed, with such other notices as can now be added, tending to complete its history and identification.

With a view to the continuation of the Pictorial Catalogue, the Committee procured specimens of drawings from three artists, which they did not, however, find quite satisfactory. They have it, therefore, under consideration, whether the recent improvements in photography may not afford the means of attaining this object, more economically, as well as more effectually, than by ordinary drawings. The Calotype process, for example, appears to offer many advantages, as its results may be multiplied *ad libitum*, and Members, or foreign scientific bodies, supplied with copies of our Pictorial Catalogue at a very reasonable cost. It is to be observed also, that the pictures thus obtained will bear microscopic examination, and will thus record what no human hand or eye could otherwise portray. The season of the year, however, has hitherto been unfavourable to experiments on the practicability or expediency of this suggestion; but the Committee hope very soon to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion. They are now engaged in considering the most economical means of producing the Calotype pictures, as it seems probable, so far as they can now form an opinion, that the cost of the process is probably the only objection to its adoption.

The following is a list of the antiquities purchased by the Committee of Antiquities during the past year:—

William Donoghoe, sundry articles from Strokestown, .	£0	10	0
George Kelly, a brass pot,	1	5	0
Michael Geraghty, gold brooch,	0	10	6
John Donegan, gold bar, 2oz. 16dwts. 21grs., 90s., .	12	15	11
Ditto, gold fibula, 1oz. 8dwts. 20grs., 90s., .	6	9	9
Ditto, gold collar, 1oz. 7dwts. 12grs., 90s., .	6	3	9
Ditto, broken gold, 10dwts. 8grs., 80s., . . .	2	1	4
Ditto, gold ornaments, 1oz. 8dwts., 90s., . . .	6	6	0
Ditto, silver signet,	1	0	0
Thomas Mason, bronze cow's head,	0	10	0
Mary Conroy, Strokestown, sundry antiquities, . . .	3	1	6
M. Carey, sundries from Wexford,	7	10	0
W. Edwards, brass figure of crucifixion,	3	0	0
M. Donoghoe, sundries from Strokestown,	1	7	6
James Underwood, sundry antiquities found in Dublin, .	10	0	0

The Proceedings of the Academy have been published during the past year with great regularity: and the thanks of the Academy are due to Mr. Jellett, who has so zealously and efficiently undertaken the task of putting them through the Press.

It was represented to the Council, that the stringency of a rule hitherto in force was practically inconvenient to Members desirous of reading Papers to the Academy. This rule required an abstract of every Paper, in a form fitted for publication, to be lodged with the Editor of the Proceedings, before the leave of the Council for reading such Paper to the Academy could be obtained. It was found, however, that the Authors of Papers were frequently desirous of obtaining the leave of the Council, before they had so far written out their Papers as to be able to put an accurate abstract of what they intended to say in a shape fit for publication. It was, therefore, deemed advisable to modify this rule, and the Academy, on the recommendation of Council, adopted the following Resolution on the 10th of January last:—

“That leave be given to read Papers of which the general nature shall have been approved by Council; but that, unless an abstract of a Paper shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Council, on or before the night of reading, the title only of it shall be published in the Proceedings of the Academy.”

During the past year, the Council have consented to exchange Transactions with the Imperial Society of Antiquaries of France.

The Academy, on the recommendation of Council, have elected the following Honorary Members :—

In the Section of Science.

Elie De Beaumont, Paris.

M. V. Regnault, Paris.

Augustin-Louis Cauchy, Paris.

In the Section of Polite Literature.

William H. Prescott, Esq., United States.

Right Hon. Thomas B. Macaulay, London.

[No vacancy in the Section of Antiquities.]

The following have been elected Ordinary Members of the Academy during the past year :—

Henry H. Head, M. D.

Gilbert Sanders, Esq.

William Nelson Irwin, Esq.

Rev. Alexander Leeper.

James Sheridan Muspratt, Esq.

William Dargan, Esq.

Henry John Porter, Esq.

David Brereton, M. D.

Arthur Leared, M. B.

Alfred H. M'Clintock, M. D.

Lundy E. Foot, Esq.

The following Members have been removed by death :—

Honorary Members.

THOMAS THOMSON, Esq., M. D. Elected 25th January, 1836; died 2nd July, 1852.

Ordinary Members.

ABRAHAM WHYTE BAKER, Esq. Elected 13th April, 1846; died 21st October, 1852.

RICHARD CANE, Esq. Elected 9th February, 1846; died — February, 1853.

JOHN CARLY, Esq. Elected 8th January, 1849; died October 1852.

JAMES S. CLOSE, Esq. Elected 23rd June, 1845; died 22nd May, 1852.

PIERCE MAHONY, Esq. Elected 27th October, 1834 ; died 19th February, 1853.

Major-General COLBY, R. E. Elected February, 1825; died 10th October, 1852.

W. B. WALLACE, Esq. Elected 26th April, 1830 ; died 12th October, 1852.

Rev. JOHN MAGRATH. Elected 12th February, 1849 ; time of death not known.

The Report having been read by the Secretary,

IT WAS RESOLVED,—That the Report of the Council be adopted, and printed in the Proceedings.

The Ballot for the annual election having closed, the Scrutineers reported that the following gentlemen were elected Officers and Council for the ensuing year :—

President.—Rev. Thomas R. Robinson, D. D.

Treasurer.—Robert Ball, LL. D.

Secretary to the Academy.—Rev. James H. Todd, D. D.

Secretary to the Council.—Rev. Charles Graves, D. D.

Secretary of Foreign Correspondence.—Rev. Samuel Butcher, D. D.

Librarian.—Rev. William H. Drummond, D. D.

Clerk and Assistant Librarian.—Mr. Edward Clibborn.

Committee of Science.

Sir Wm. R. Hamilton, LL. D. ; Rev. Humphrey Lloyd, D. D. ; James Apjohn, M. D. ; Robert Ball, LL. D. ; Sir Robert Kane, M. D. ; George J. Allman, M. D. ; Rev. Samuel Haughton, A. M.

Committee of Polite Literature.

Rev. William H. Drummond, D. D. ; Rev. Charles W. Wall, D. D. ; John Anster, LL. D. ; Rev. Charles Graves, D. D. ; Rev. Samuel Butcher, D. D. ; Digby P. Starkey, Esq. ; Rev. John H. Jellett, A. M.